Montgomery County COVID-19 Food Access Grant Information Sheet

Purpose: Invest in culturally competent community-level initiatives with grant funding to provide food assistance to hard-to-reach communities in Montgomery County, Md during response to and recovery from to COVID-19. Nonprofits can apply for up to $75,000, but may not be granted to the full amount.

Partnership: The COVID-19 Emergency Food Access Grant is a partnership between Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS), the Montgomery County Food Council (MCFC), and the Healthcare Initiative Foundation (HIF). This funding has been appropriated by the Montgomery County Council to increase food access to Montgomery County residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Food Security Task Force recently formed by the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security will be reviewing and determining all grant awards and HIF is the fiscal agent and supporting the application process through its grant platform, Foundant.

Timeline of Process & Award:

Phase 1 Application Opens	Monday, May 4, 2020
Phase 1 Application Closes	Friday, May 8, 2020 at 12PM
EFT Grant Committee Review	Monday, May 11, 2020
EFT Announces Phase 1 Awards	Tuesday, May 12, 2020
HIF Distributes Grant Agreements to Awardees	Tuesday, May 12, 2020
NP and HIF Finalize Grant Agreements	Thursday, May 14, 2020
HIF Awards Processed for Payment	Wednesday May 13 - May 14, 2020

Communication Strategy:

1. Application, Tip Sheet, and Recorded Webinar available in multiple languages
2. Announcement of application launched partner platforms (Nonprofit Montgomery weekly meeting, Montgomery County Food Council weekly meeting, HIF newsletter, etc.)
3. Social Media platforms
4. Partner websites & newsletter announcements
5. Montgomery County Minority Health Initiatives
6. Montgomery County's Faith Community Advisory Council

Grant Evaluation Criteria:

I. Population Served: Equity Lens - while COVID-19 has affected all residents of the county, not everyone has the same access to health and social services. Prioritizing populations and zip codes helps address the needs of hard to reach communities and generally underserved individuals and households
      a. Priority Populations (one point for each, maximum of 5 points)
      b. Priority Zip Codes (one point for each, maximum of 10 points)

II. Services: Equity Lens - services must be tailored to meet language and cultural needs to meet people where they are and understand what they need from both a health and socio-economic perspective
      a. Direct food assistance types that meets needs of the community served (up to 5 points)
      b. Provides examples of how purchase and distribution of culturally appropriate food will be addressed (up to 15 points)
      c. Provides examples of how language differences will be addressed to ensure appropriate outreach and engagement (up to 15 points)

III. Impact: Equity Lens - underserved and hard to reach communities generally have greater health, educational, and socio-economic disparities. Identifying these communities, acknowledging their challenges and strengths, and increasing resources in these communities can have a greater impact and decrease disparities over time.
      a. The proposal will meet the food security needs prioritized by the taskforce (up to 10 points)
      b. Provides direct food assistance to vulnerable and/or unreached populations (up to 10 points)
      c. Builds community capacity to address vulnerable and/or unreached populations' needs (up to 10 points)

IV. Feasibility: Equity Lens - implementation of a plan to reach underserved populations requires thoughtfulness and innovation, but must also be practical, safe, and appropriate for that community.
      a. Service description, project budget, and the overall organizational capacity (i.e., staff, volunteers, partners, etc.). (up to 15 points)
      b. Describes plan to protect staff and clients using PPE and cleaning protocols (up to 5 points)

Grant Process through Healthcare Initiative Foundation Online Portal:

1. All applications are completed in the HIF online grant portal. If your organization cannot complete this application online or requires the application be provided in a language other than English[1] please contact, Jess.Fuchs@hifmc.org to coordinate.
    a. Use this link to access HIF's portal: https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=healthcareinitiative
2. Log into existing account or easily create new account. New accounts will require organization's Employer Tax Identification Number (EIN). Please list best contact name, phone, & email for any required follow-up. Please indicate the address where the grant award check to be mailed.
3. When completing the application, you can come and go but must 'save' document before exiting. Once complete, you must hit 'SUBMIT' to finalize the document. The primary contact listed will receive confirmation email once it is submitted.
4. The entire grant process is conducted online in the portal – completing the application, signing the grant agreement, and completing the year-end report. For any questions on the grant application, please contact Jess Fuchs at jess.fuchs@hifmc.org.

Referral Inquiry:

Are you a business, faith community, neighborhood association, farm, or other community stakeholder interested in providing general support to food assistance efforts? Click here

Are you an individual, household, or community in need of assistance? Click here.

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1 Spanish, Vietnamese, Amharic, French, Chinese, & Korean